Borden Signs Up

The first agreement between the Borden Farm Products Company and Office Employees International Union, Local 153 was recently signed. This contract embraces seven branches of this company in the Greater New York area and covers in excess of one hundred office and clerical employees.

Outstanding among the gains achieved in the agreement was a $7.50 weekly increase for all employees in addition to this wage increase and many other important provisions, a three-week vacation after five years of service was obtained. Prior to this agreement, the company had not provided for vacations in excess of two weeks. The wage increase is retroactive to October 1953.

The negotiating committee was composed of: Nat Adams, Organizing Director; Harry Cortman, Harold Zimmerman, Marg. Keenan, George Steinfeld, Ralph Milzio, Jim Toomey and George Fischer, assisted by Ben Cohen and John Planting, Business Representatives of the Local Union.

N. Y. Strike Ends

Don Blake, business representative of Local 153, announced the signing of an agreement with the Keitel-Williams Stamping Company in Queens, N. Y. This agreement was consummated after a strike of two weeks duration.

Negotiations broke down between the company and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, Local 980, and a strike was called by that organization. Members of our union refused to cross the picket lines until negotiations were successfully concluded by the Machinists. Subsequently, Blake negotiated a $2.80 weekly increase retroactive to November, 1953, with the same increase added to the minimums and maximums of established rate ranges.

An unusual feature of this agreement provides that members will receive a half-day off on the day prior to Christmas, and the day prior to New Year's.

Win $3 Increase

The employees of Workmen's Benefit Fund, New York received a $3 weekly increase retroactive to January 1, 1954, as a result of an agreement negotiated by representatives of Local 153. Business Representative Don Blake and a committee of the company, who had negotiated this renewal agreement.

The maximum of established rates were raised by an average of 10 per cent. Sick leave provisions are now placed on an accrual basis with no limit insofar as unlimited sick leave is concerned.

Pay increases ranging from $45 to $75 per month for employees in the Miami, Fla., branch of the Insurance Company of Texas resulted from the signing of an amendment to the OEUU contract based on a job study.

SELECTED ARTICLE DESCRIBING AGREEMENTS WITH KITIMAT AND KEMANO

Canadian Constructors Sign

Great Lakes Paper Company Organized

Frank Revell, Secretary-Treasurer of OEUU Local 111, Fort William, Ontario, announced the unionization of the office and clerical employees of the Great Lakes Paper Company, Ltd. The Ontario Labor Relations Board, as a result of a hearing, found that certified Local 111 is the collective bargaining agent for the office employees of that company.

The contract has already been submitted to the management of the Company and negotiations will begin shortly. Altnair MacArthur, Canadian representative of the OEUU, represented Local 111 at the hearing before the Ontario Labor Relations Board.

Brother Revell and the other officers of Local 111 are to be congratulated on the progress made by the local. It is one of the fastest growing OEUU locals in Canada.

Everybody's Happy

The employees of Workmen's Benefit Fund, New York received a $3 weekly increase retroactive to January 1, 1954, as a result of an agreement negotiated by representatives of Local 153. Business Representative Don Blake and a committee of the company, who had negotiated this renewal agreement.

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Pay increases ranging from $45 to $75 per month for employees in the Miami, Fla., branch of the Insurance Company of Texas resulted from the signing of an amendment to the OEUU contract based on a job study. Selected, left to right: OEUU Vice President J. O. Bloodworth and E. J. Latulipe, personal director of the company, Standing, left to right: Charles Vinson of Local 128, job steward; Mrs. Katherine Radlo, member of the home office bargaining committee; L. C. Adams, resident manager of the company; Miss Violet Mathen, president of Local 128, and Bud Adams, employee representative.

Reach Agreements at Kitimat and Kemano

Archie McComb, president, and Johnny Gallan, organizer of OEUU Local 15 at Vancouver, British Columbia, announced the signing of agreements covering 200 members at Kitimat and Kemano projects.

These agreements were reached with the Kitimat Constructors, Inc., and Morrison-Knudsen, both contractors at these two large aluminum plants in British Columbia. These agreements were consummated after a long and hard-fought dispute during which the case was before the Canadian Conciliation Commission.

The Kitimat agreement called for a $25 per person per month increase, retroactive to January 1, 1954. In view of the fact that employees working on these projects live in company towns and in company-owned buildings, rentals became an integral part of the collective bargaining units. A $15 monthly rent reduction was achieved by the negotiating committee. A union shop and check-off of dues are also contained in a one-year agreement which will expire on July 25, 1955.

The agreement with Morrison-Knudsen calls for a 10 per cent increase effective August 1, with a classification review every six months. This contract is retroactive to May 8, 1953. The contract also provides for a union shop and check-off of dues. This agreement is a provision that rooms and board will be provided free and clear for our members employed on this project.

Local 15 is to be congratulated for this hard-won victory on behalf of the employees of Kitimat and Kemano.

Gains Made By Buddie Employes

OEIU members at Buddie Publications, San Francisco, received wage increases ranging from $10.84 to $50.17 a month. Jim Sunder, representing Office Employes International Union, Local 36, and a committee composed of Ruth Green and May O'Keefe, negotiated this agreement.

Back pay of $11,070 was shared by our members in receipt of this new contract. The retroactive pay is being used for everything from buying a new high chair to paying a mortgage on a new home, or paying off overdue Christmas bills.

The agreement between the company and the Union covers all hourly paid employees at the company's plant at 301 South Main Street and at the plant in San Bruno, Calif.
A man was buying a doll for his little girl. "It's a lovely one," cooed the salesgirl. "You lay her down and she closes her eyes just like a real baby.

The man stood a moment looking skeptical and then blurted: "Well, then, I guess none of our kids were real babies!"—Capper's Weekly.

A businessman was in the habit of taking a cab from the station to his home each night. One evening he made the trip with a new driver who charged more than the usual rate. After considerable argument, the businessman exclaimed in rage, "Why? I've lived in this same spot for a decade, and I haven't been making these trips for a dozen years. I don't doubt it for a moment," replied the cabbie, "but I think you're going to start now.

A motorist was traveling through a mountain state and he was a bit doubtful about the safety of the road ahead of him. He stopped at a garage in a small town and told the mechanic of his problem. The mechanic replied that the only man who knew anything about this particular road was not around the garage at that moment.

"But you just wait around awhile," he continued. "He's out there somewhere. That road is dangerous and he won't be more than a couple of hours getting back in."

"Why did you get a divorce?"

"My wife called me an idiot."

"You're not sufficient cause for a divorce."

"Well, you see, it was like this. I can't explain it, but I'm sure I found my wife in the arms of the chauffeur, and I said to her, 'I'm through with this thing.' And she said, 'Can't you see, you idiot?'

"Miss the mood. She said you were looking incestuously over the shoulder."

"Huh-uh! We got it! I thought you was talking to us."

His friends in the mountains said that Uncle Ben was very cautious and brittle and mean, and got on his new suit of clothes one day and went down to have a look at Chattanooga.

As he was looking, a red-nosed stranger approached, asking "Will you give me a quarter for a sandwich?"

"Lemme see the sandwich, first," he said.

"One Senator had been making the rounds of his home territory to re- mind the voters that he'd been doing a right fine job for them in Washington. Following a speech before a women's group he was introduced to a new resident. "Madam," he smiled, "I certainly hope I'm consoling you return to me."

She shook her head. "I wish you luck, but from the short time I've been in this community I can assure you that these people never return anything."

"Said one farmer to another: 'I have a rooster that is so lazy that every morning, when the rooster on the next farm crowed, my rooster just blinks his eyes and nods his head in approval.'

The annual Union Label Industry Show, sponsored by the American Federation of Labor, will be held in Baltimore in May or early June. The American Federation of Labor has for many years been promoting this show for the pur- pose of displacing with the public the products and services produced through the cooperation of organ- ized labor and fair management.

This show affords A. F. L. members, industry in bringing to Los Angeles

Almost every A. F. L. craft and service organization will join the outstanding craftsmen in the na- tion and the Federal display of con- sumer goods ever shown in this show. The entire area of Fair-Pa- cific will be devoted entirely to educational and "live" exhibits which will emphasize everything from tucks to trailers.

In addition to the numerous streetcars that will perform daily, many stars of radio, movies and television will be on hand during the gala event. Visitors to the show will have an opportunity of sampling products of the unions at very low prices, free and food prices to be given away by the exhibitors.

Free admission tickets will be distributed by A. F. L. unions and local business establishments. To date, shows have been held in Cleveland, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Chicago, and New York City. Our Los Angeles Locals 30 and 174 are preparing the Union Label Board which will be on display at this show.

Urges Support Of Cancer Drive

The following communication was sent by George Meany, Presi- dent of the American Federation of Labor: "One of the most critical public health problems is the cancer war. The Ameri- can Cancer Society is the one great national organization today is cancer. This ruthless killer, according to the American Cancer Society, has taken the lives of an estimated 230,000 Americans in the last year.

The American Cancer Society was the pioneer in the nationwide fight against cancer. Since the 1930's the cancer problem has been reflected in cancer rates that were impossible 10 years ago, together with a much more widespread pub- lic enlightenment about cancer. The American Federation of Labor urges all of its affiliated organiza- tions and their members as civic minded citizens to support it with generous and adequate financial support.

The Federation of Labor is the largest organization of workers in the United States, and over 900,000 members are active in the movement. We heartily endorse the recogni- tion expressed in the above and urge the cooperation of our local unions in this worthwhile campaign.

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Local 36 Wins Bay City Strike

H. L. Sanders, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 36, reports the successful conclusion of a strike against Ray Oil Burner Company, San Fran- cisco.

After trying to negotiate a con- tract with the Ray Oil Burner Com- pany, the Local 36 Service Committee and the local met with no success. Through the assistance of the Federal Medi- cation and Conciliation Service, a proposal from the company was accepted by the union. The company then claimed it did not author- ize the Conciliation Service to make such an offer, therefore, at 7 a.m. February 16 the local union struck the company. Four and one-half hours later the company signed the contract.

The new contract includes 10 cents per hour increase, a job evalua- tion plan, and a three-year agreement with an auto- matic one per cent increase September 1 of each year.

Local 36 wishes to thank I. A. M. Local 1475 and its Controller, Local 85 and Tool and Die Makers of the Chippewa district and Brick Masons for the whole- hearted support given our union in this dispute.

Famed Union Show Set for L.A.

The annual Union Label Indus- try Show, sponsored by the Ameri- can Federation of Labor, will be held in Baltimore in May or early June. The American Federation of Labor has for many years been promoting this show for the pur- pose of displacing with the public the products and services produced through the cooperation of organ- ized labor and fair management. The show has been very successful in focusing public attention on the important role of organized labor in society.

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The outstanding craftsmen in the na- tion and the Federal display of con- sumer goods ever shown in this show. The entire area of Fair-Pa- cific will be devoted entirely to educational and "live" exhibits which will emphasize everything from tucks to trailers.

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Free admission tickets will be distributed by A. F. L. unions and local business establishments. To date, shows have been held in Cleveland, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Chicago, and New York City. Our Los Angeles Locals 30 and 174 are preparing the Union Label Board which will be on display at this show.
Unemployment

According to the latest government statistics, there are now more than 3,100,000 persons unemployed in this country. In one month—from December to January—the number of people employed had dropped 2,000,000. Many facturing payrolls along with three-quarters of a million less than a year ago. In Detroit and fifty-one other communities, more than 6 per cent of the working people have lost their jobs. President Eisenhower recently expressed his own concern on the subject and told a press conference on February 17 that if things didn't get better in March the government would have to do something.

We believe that something will have to be done before too much time elapses. It is imperative that action be taken before the number of unemployed reaches a figure which will adversely affect the economy of the country.

It is not the number of unemployed alone that concerns us, but the alarming rate at which this number has increased each month since June of 1953. Starting in June, the number increased each month thereafter to reach a November rate of 24 unemployed per 1,000 employees. It is to be noted that November layoffs nearly equaled the figure for new hires for that month. This contrasted sharply with 1952 when factories hired seven times as many workers in November as they laid off. Since 1930, there have only been two years—1930 and 1937—in which the November hiring rate was lower than that of 1953.

We believe that Congress will have to take action in this session to do away with the "hard money policy" and create a public works program badly needed in the United States.

The Non-Union Differential

Without meaning to do so the U. S. Department of Labor keeps reminding us how expensive it is for millions of white collar workers to exercise their free-born American right to be non-union—and underpaid.

Whenever the Department of Labor finishes an "Occupational Wage Survey" they send the OEUU Washington office a copy. The last one we received was for Philadelphia. This is one of the most highly unionized cities in the country—except for office employees.

What price non-unionism in Philadelphia? The government survey shows secretaries average $65.50, stenographers, $53.00, and bookkeeping machine operators $62.00 a week.

But in the same survey maintenance carpenters get $2.20, electricians $2.16, and machinists $2.21 per hour—between $80 and $90 per week. The nation-wide average for production workers in factories is $71.78 per week. The rates for construction workers is much higher than that.

Pork chops sell for the same price no matter what your salary. Why, therefore, should office workers of greater skill and responsibility get less pay? The answer is that without a union nobody gets the salary to which this ability entitles him.

Tax Bill Hurts Prosperity

"The idea of giving tax relief only to business and investors as a stimulating force is simply the old 'trickle down' theory of "What's good for the country is good for business."

If people have money to buy, business will have markets and persons will have jobs." (Senator Paul Douglas, Illinois, February 22, 1954.)
WHITES COLLAR

Anglo-Newfoundland Contract Signed

Canadian Representative Alain MacArthur announced the signing of an agreement covering 340 mem-
bers employed by the Anglo-New-
foundland Development Company at Grand Falls, Newfoundland.

A wage increase of 3 per cent will be made retroactive to June 1, 1953. An addi-
tional day's holiday was gained, and the unfair-wage clause was strengthened.

The seniority provisions of the contract were changed to make
length of service a more determin-
ing factor in layoffs or promotions.

Individual increases, in addition
to the general wage increase, of $15 to $25 per month were negotiated
effective to January 1, 1953.

Management has expressed its in-
tention in the agreement, having
covered members progress from the
minimum to the standard rate in a
clearing of three years. The mem-
bership of Local 255 employed at the
Anglo-Newfoundland unanimously ratified this renewal
agreement.

SYNTHETICS PRICES BREAK

The big news this month is the
break in the price of the new syn-
thetics. As long as these synthetics are
of the same type, Acrylics, Acetates and others.

The manufacturers made a great push to get them into the
prices are already down in price or on the
verge, even nylon carpeting, as this
price may be followed by
nylon.200. 500. 1000.

Some stores already offer Dacron
offs on anything from $5.00 carpeting
to the $12 tag of last year when
production was limited and manufac-
turers and retailers were exploit-
ing the novelty of the new fabrics.

Nylon will probably sell at
as little as $5.00. Dresses of Or-
lon and nylon blend for $12.50. But
unless the synthetics fit a particular
need for you, as shown below, they still
are not good value as
nylons or rayons.

Other Items Reduced

Man-made fibers important to
have been gapped in recent weeks, but
not the basic living expenses of food
which slips along. Leading mills have just
reduced their sheets 20-30 per
cent. Temporarily at least, sheets are
now at the lowest price levels
in some cases. Home department
stores have already
come down, and even on tags on
cars. Even the cost of a building
mercerized house has dropped
a little. Men's denim washable
dresses and suits, half-priced, as well as
drances, overalls and matched
sets for boys' and men's.

This is a period when some prices
are falling, so rule.
nylon and rayon already:
then there are nylon
cottons, rayons. However, there are
producer's and retailer's
costs, more especially in foods.

The big problem is still the high
txts today, and this is the
trend of last year, this is the
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Dow Service

Prices of futures have been
reduced due to lower costs of
materials. If your battery is
winter-sweat and no longer holds a
charge, this is an opportunity to
replace it at less cost.

HOUSEHOLD: Realistic predict a drop
in costs for the winter. He
-10 per cent in tags on used
because this year.

The cost of building a
new house also has declined.
A house that cost $10,000 in 1953,
and went up to $11,700 by
1954, has dropped to
$10,750, according to the Dow Service
Research.

FOOD: Beef remains the best
buy in meat, especially chock-
cracked and broccoli. Lamb andveal prices are
down seasonally, but pork
-0.3.